AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-12 cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer.

13. (New) A diagnostic reagent for hepatitis C virus (HCV) infection comprising a solid phase sensitized with a genetic recombinant HCV antigen and a synthesized HCV antigen.

14. (New) The diagnostic reagent of claim 1, wherein the genetic recombinant HCV antigen is an HCV non-structural region protein.

15. (New) The diagnostic reagent of claim 1, wherein the genetic recombinant HCV antigen is NS3 antigen.

16. (New) The diagnostic reagent of claim 1, wherein the synthesized HCV antigen is selected from the group consisting of core peptide, NS4 peptide and NS5 peptide.

17. (New) The diagnostic reagent of claim 1, wherein the synthesized HCV antigen comprises an HCV non-structural region protein and an HCV structural region protein.

18. (New) The diagnostic reagent of claim 1, wherein the synthesized HCV antigen comprises core peptide, NS4 peptide and NS5 peptide.

19. (New) The diagnostic reagent of claim 1, wherein the synthesized HCV antigen is conjugated with a carrier protein.

20. (New) The diagnostic reagent of claim 19, wherein the synthesized HCV antigen is selected from the group consisting of core peptide, NS4 peptide and NS5 peptide.

21. (New) The diagnostic reagent of claim 19, wherein the synthesized HCV antigen comprises an HCV non-structural region protein and an HCV structural region protein.

22. (New) The diagnostic reagent of claim 19, wherein the synthesized HCV antigen comprises core peptide, NS4 peptide and NS5 peptide.

23. (New) The diagnostic reagent of claim 19, wherein the carrier protein and the synthesized HCV antigen are present at a ratio of about 1:3 to 1:20 (carrier protein: synthesized HCV antigen).

24. (New) The diagnostic reagent of claim 1, wherein the solid phase is directly sensitized with the genetic recombinant HCV antigen.

25. (New) The diagnostic reagent of claim 1, wherein the genetic recombinant HCV antigen is conjugated with a carrier protein.

26. (New) The diagnostic reagent of claim 25, wherein the genetic recombinant HCV antigen is selected from HCV non-structural region proteins.

27. (New) The diagnostic reagent of claim 25, wherein the genetic recombinant HCV antigen is NS3 antigen.

28. (New) The diagnostic reagent of claim 19, wherein the carrier protein is a water-soluble protein.

29. (New) The diagnostic reagent of claim 28, wherein the water-soluble protein is selected from the group consisting of BSA, ovalbumin and hemocyanin.

30. (New) The diagnostic reagent of claim 1, wherein the solid phase is a carrier particle.